

## 'Grooming': The ubiquitous buzzword in LGBTQ school debate

By **KIMBERLEE KRUESI** and  
**KARENA PHAN**  
Associated Press

Proponents of restrictions on how U.S. public schools address sexual orientation and gender identity say their ultimate goal is to allow parents more involvement in their children's education and ensure classroom materials are age-appropriate.

But in heated debates at school board meetings and in statehouses across the country, the argument they repeatedly put forth is that they are trying to prevent children from being "groomed" — the same term commonly used to describe how sex offenders initiate contact with their victims.

The use of such rhetoric,

opponents of the new laws argue, underscores a nationwide push by conservatives to make education a political wedge issue by equating certain teaching materials and educators with pornography and even pedophilia. This latest trend is another volley in the country's ongoing culture wars, during which conservative lawmakers also have opposed the teaching of "critical race theory" and proposed bills requiring schools to post all course materials online so parents can review them. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, an ascending Republican and potential 2024 presidential candidate, has been at the forefront of the movement.

Continued on next page



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis shows an image from the children's book *Call Me Max* by transgender author Kyle Lukoff moments before signing the Parental Rights in Education bill during a news conference on Monday, March 28, 2022, at Classical Preparatory school in Shady Hills. At left is an image of The Genderbread Person, a teaching tool used for breaking the concept of gender.

Associated Press

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#### Continued from Front

On Monday, DeSantis signed a bill into law that forbids instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade. While doing so, he railed against "liberal politicians" and activists who fought against the law, saying, "They support sexualizing kids in kindergarten."

"They support injecting woke gender ideology into 2nd grade classrooms," he added. "They support enabling schools to 'transition students' to a 'different gender' without the knowledge of the parent ... without the parent's consent."

DeSantis never uttered the word "groom," but his press secretary, Christina Pushaw, remarked on Twitter that the legislation dubbed by opponents as the "Don't Say Gay" bill would be



**Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signs the Parental Rights in Education bill at Classical Preparatory school Monday, March 28, 2022 in Shady Hills, Fla.**

Associated Press

more accurately described as an "Anti-Grooming Bill."

The use of the term is an attempt to distort the goal of teachers "who are being intentional about expressing their acceptance of LGBTQ people, or perhaps sharing their own stories ... so that all students can know that they have representa-

tion within the school," said Casey Pick, a senior fellow for advocacy and government affairs at the Trevor Project, a nonprofit that provides support services for LGBTQ youth.

Asked why she used it, Pushaw replied in an email to The Associated Press, "I have never stated that all

groomers are LGBT, all LGBT people are groomers, or anything of that nature." She did not elaborate.

In Tennessee, country music singer John Rich testified in front of lawmakers that school librarians who defend controversial books about gender identity and featuring LGBTQ characters "groom" children to become desensitized to sexual abuse and pornography. "What's the difference between a teacher, a librarian putting one of these books on the desk of a student, or a guy in a white van pulling up when school lets out, saying, 'Come around kids, let me read you this book?'" Rich asked last month. "What's the difference between those two scenarios? There is a difference. They can run away from the van."

An Oklahoma school choice advocacy blog, Choice Remarks, shared an article on its Facebook page alleging that public schools are sexualizing children. "Groomers are gonna groom," the group declared in comments accompanying the article. "The solution is educational choice."

When the New York State Education Department tweeted a book recommendation of Maia Kobabe's graphic novel "Gender Queer: A Memoir," the agency was attacked online as providing "pornographic" material to children, as well as "grooming" and "preying" on them. The agency later deleted the tweet.

DeSantis and other conservative politicians and parents who have criticized schools' use of books with sexually explicit material argue that parents, not teachers, should be broaching such subjects with their children.

The main point of the Florida law is that it "empowers

parents to be engaged in their children's lives," said Republican Rep. Joe Harding, who sponsored the legislation. At Monday's signing ceremony, a placard affixed to the speakers' podium and signs held up by young children featured the slogan "Protect Children/Support Parents."

But Catherine Oakley, state legislative director and senior counsel at Human Rights Campaign, an LGBTQ advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., said conservative groups are capitalizing on the fear of unknown materials, books and discussion taking place inside classrooms to propel measures that would place more "surveillance" on teachers, librarians and other educators. These groups "are really coming from this idea that sexual orientation (and) gender identity is something that's being imposed upon kids," Oakley said. "It comes from just a really fundamentally wrong position about where a person's LGBTQ identity comes from."

The current trend to limit the teaching of sexual orientation and gender identity echoes similar campaigns of the 1970s in which far-right religious groups characterized people who identified as LGBTQ as trying to "convert children," said Sophie Bjork-James, an assistant professor at Vanderbilt University who researches the U.S.-based religious right and the white nationalist movement. The accusation helped stall the expansion of civil rights for sexual minorities, Bjork-James said.

"Adult discomfort has always seemed to take the priority over the rights and responsibility as a society to provide our young people with the information that they deserve," McBride said. □

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# Border crossings rise as U.S. nears decision on asylum limits

By **ACACIA CORONADO**

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** —

About 7,000 migrants are being stopped crossing the border daily from Mexico, the U.S. Border Patrol chief said Tuesday, a sharp increase from February that comes as the Biden administration nears a decision on whether to end sweeping asylum restrictions designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Chief Raul Ortiz said 1,500 Cubans were stopped over the previous day, well more than double the daily average from February. He nodded when asked to confirm that about 7,000 migrants were being stopped, which compares with a daily average of about 5,900 in February.

The sharp increases, if sustained, may surpass levels of migration reached last year, in 2019 and other peak periods.

"This is a bipartisan issue, you have to get both sides of the parties together," Ortiz said at Border Security Expo, an industry conference in San Antonio.

The Homeland Security Department says it is planning for three scenarios: current level of illegal border crossings, 12,000 and 18,000, an astounding number but one that officials said was simply to be prepared and not a projection.

The administration is particularly challenged by migrants from countries that have traditionally not sent such large numbers of people to the U.S., including Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Colombia.

Since March 2020, the U.S. has used a public health order aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19 to expel migrants more than 1.7 million times without a chance to seek asylum. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is expected to decide this week whether to extend Title 42, named for a 1944 public health law.

Some migrants from countries such as Cuba have continued to be released in the U.S. to pursue asylum because costs and diplomatic challenges prevent the U.S. from sending them home.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has about 21,000 detention beds available, said Corey Price, director of the agency's enforcement and removal operations. Even if it emptied its beds, they could be full this weekend with new arrivals. The agency is increasingly looking at home confinement and other alternatives, he said. COVID-19 rates have been plunging among migrants crossing the border, raising



**A group of Brazilian migrants make their way around a gap in the U.S.-Mexico border in Yuma, Ariz., seeking asylum in the United States after crossing over from Mexico, June 8, 2021. border.**

Associated Press

more questions about the scientific grounds for Title 42. While there is no aggregate rate for migrants, test results from several major corridors for illegal border

crossings suggest it is well below levels that have triggered concerns among U.S. officials.

In California, 54 of 2,877 migrants tested positive the

first two weeks of March, according to the state Department of Social Services. That's a rate of just 1.9%, down from a peak of 28.2% on Jan. 8.

In Pima County, Arizona, which includes Tucson, the seven-day positivity rate among migrants didn't exceed 1.3% in early March. The positivity rate among 5,300 migrants tested last month at the Regional Center for Border Health near Yuma, Arizona, was 0.1%.

McAllen, Texas, the largest city in the busiest corridor for illegal crossings, has a higher rate among migrants — 11.3% for the week ending March 16 — but it has been consistently lower than the general population. □

## Biden signs bill making lynching a federal hate crime

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed a bill into law to make lynching a federal hate crime, more than 100 years after such legislation was first proposed.

The Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act is named after the Black teenager whose killing in Mississippi in the summer of 1955 became a galvanizing moment in the civil rights era. His grieving mother insisted on an open casket to show everyone how her son had been brutalized.

Biden acknowledged the long delay during remarks in the Rose Garden to lawmakers, administration officials and civil rights advocates, stressing how the violent deaths of Black Americans were used to intimidate them and prevent them from voting simply because of their skin color. "Thank you for never giving up, never ever giving up," the president said. "Lynching was pure terror to enforce the lie that not everyone, not everyone, belongs in America, not everyone is created equal." □



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# Accused stalker of Apple CEO Tim Cook agrees to stay away

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**  
AP Technology Writer

**SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)** — A woman accused of harassing Apple CEO Tim Cook with pleas for sex and other crude suggestions before showing up at his Silicon Valley home in a threatening manner last October agreed to stay away from him for the next three years under an agreement approved Tuesday.

Julie Lee Choi consented to the deal negotiated with Apple during a appearance in Santa Clara County Superior Court. Cook, Apple's CEO for the past decade, wasn't present at the proceeding held in San Jose, California.

Choi, 45, declined to comment after the hearing while angrily waving off two reporters taking her picture outside the courthouse. An Apple lawyer also declined to discuss the stipulation. The agreement requires Choi to refrain from coming within 200 yards of Cook during the next three years, and prohibits her from attempting to communicate with him through any electronic means, including on



Julie Lee Choi waves off reporters outside Santa Clara Superior Court in San Jose, Calif., on Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

Associated Press

Twitter accounts or emails. If she violates the terms, Choi could face criminal charges and potentially imprisoned.

The bizarre case traces back to late 2020 when Choi began emailing Cook begging him to have sex with her and attaching images of handguns that

she insisted he had made her buy, according to evidence that Apple submitted to obtain a temporary restraining order against her in January. Those documents also revealed Choi had set up a series of bogus companies trying to connect her to Cook, sometimes listing an Apple office

as the headquarters.

"I can't live like this anymore," Choi wrote in one email to Cook sent from an iPhone. "I want sex with you, please, please."

Cook has publicly said he is a gay man, but even after Choi acknowledges knowing that, her entreaties to him continued. "Tim, we are

destined for our lives."

Apple took legal action after Choi told him last September that she intended to apply to become his "roommate" at his condominium located in Palo Alto, California — not far from Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, California.

In October, Choi showed up outside Cook's home on two separate actions and warned she "could get violent," according to court documents.

Then, in December, Choi told Cook she would forgive him for \$500 million in cash.

A few weeks after that, Apple sought its temporary restraining order in a request that contended Choi "may be armed" and "intends to return to Apple's CEO residence or locate him otherwise in the near future." Choi had been living in McLean, Virginia before she began shadowing Cook in Silicon Valley.

Apple paid more than \$630,000 for security measures designed to protect Cook last year, according to a required company disclosure to shareholders. □

# Oregon ends residency rule for medically assisted suicide



This Jan. 11, 2018, file photo, shows the state Capitol in Salem, Ore.

Associated Press

By **GENE JOHNSON**  
Associated Press

Oregon will no longer require people to be residents of the state to use its law allowing terminally ill people to receive lethal medication, after a lawsuit challenged the requirement as unconstitutional.

In a settlement filed in U.S. District Court in Portland on Monday, the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Medical Board agreed to stop enforcing the residency requirement and to ask the Legislature to remove it from the law. Advocates said they would

use the settlement to press the eight other states and Washington, D.C., with medically assisted suicide laws to drop their residency requirements as well.

"This requirement was both discriminatory and profoundly unfair to dying patients at the most critical time of their life," said Kevin Diaz, an attorney with Compassion & Choices, the national advocacy group that sued over Oregon's requirement.

Laura Echevarria, a spokeswoman for National Right to Life, which opposes such laws, warned that without a residency requirement, Oregon risked becoming the nation's "assisted suicide tourism capital."

But Diaz said that was unlikely, given safeguards in the law, such as the requirement that physicians determine whether patients are mentally capa-

ble; that it is extremely difficult for terminally ill people to make extended trips to another state; and that many people want to die in the presence of loved ones near home — not across the country.

"There's no tourism going on," Diaz said.

Compassion & Choices sued on behalf of Dr. Nicholas Gideonse, a Portland family practice physician and associate professor of family medicine at Oregon Health and Science University. A longtime supporter of medical aid-in-dying laws, Gideonse had been unable to write terminal prescriptions for patients who live just across the Columbia River in Washington state.

While Washington has such a law, providers can be difficult to find in the southwestern part of the state, where many hospital beds

are in religiously affiliated health care facilities that prohibit it. Requiring his patients to find other doctors to provide assistance in ending their own lives can compound their suffering, Gideonse said.

"Any restriction on medical aid in dying that doesn't serve a specific medical purpose is difficult," Gideonse said Monday. "In no other way is my practice restricted to Oregon residents, whether that's delivering babies in the past or other care that I provide."

The lawsuit argued that the residency requirement violated the U.S. Constitution's Commerce Clause, which gives Congress the right to regulate interstate commerce, and the Privileges and Immunities Clause, which forbids states from discriminating against citizens from other states in favor of its own citizens. □



# Spain, Portugal emerge as 'energy island' in Europe's crisis

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Amid the mayhem provoked in the world energy market by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Spain and Portugal have emerged in a strategically advantageous position as an "energy island" in Europe, with a relatively low reliance on Russian natural gas.

Leaders in renewable energy thanks to solar, wind and hydraulic power, Spain and Portugal are now poised to reap the benefits of long-term investments in liquefied natural gas, or LNG.

With six LNG plants in Spain — including Europe's largest, in Barcelona — and one in Portugal, the Iberian neighbors account for one-third of Europe's LNG processing capacity. The port-based terminals turn boatloads of supercooled LNG back into gas that then flows into homes and businesses.

"Clearly, this infrastructure gives us more flexibility and strengthens our gas distribution system in comparison to those of other European countries that depend on pipelines," said Claudio Rodríguez, spokesman for



Operators work at the Enagás regasification plant, the largest LNG plant in Europe, in Barcelona, Spain, Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

Enagás, the company that runs Spain's natural gas network.

He spoke Tuesday during a rare tour of the huge cylindrical deposits at the LNG plant in Barcelona's port.

Spain and Portugal are set to receive more gas imports, along with the rest of Europe, after the United States announced last week that it would help its allies reduce their dependence on Russian gas.

The U.S. said it will boost LNG exports to Europe by 15 billion cubic meters this year, with even larger shipments coming in the future. The U.S. already surpassed Algeria as Spain's leading source of natural gas at the start of the year.

Spain appeared to be in a vulnerable position last year after Algeria shut down a gas pipeline that runs through Morocco amid a spat with its fel-

low North African country. Spain deployed diplomats to secure guarantees from Algeria that it would ship LNG. Now, Russia's war in Ukraine has put Spain in an envious position.

The war has turned Europe's dependence on Russian gas into a critical strategic liability. In a rush to find alternatives, European Union leaders want to accelerate mid- to long-term goals to shift further into renewable

energy, while finding alternative sources of natural gas in the meantime. Russia has kept the gas flowing for now but has turned off the taps in the past during spats with Ukraine and Belarus.

The crisis also has shown that the EU, despite being a common market for 27 nations, has major internal bottlenecks in its energy distribution system.

There are scant energy connections between Spain and Portugal and rest of Europe. That is behind an unprecedented shift in EU policy last week when the Iberian countries were allowed to propose their own price control mechanisms to tackle soaring energy costs across the continent. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and his Portuguese counterpart, António Costa, successfully argued that the relative isolation of their countries from the rest of the EU market, forming what Sánchez's government calls an "energy island," and their high use of renewables meant that they should be temporarily released from the common market rules. □

Associated Press

## Europeans expel dozens of Russian envoys to combat espionage

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — In what appeared to be a coordinated action to tackle Russian espionage, at least four European allies expelled dozens of Russian diplomats on Tuesday.

The expulsions come as relations between Russia and the West have plunged into a deep freeze following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The Netherlands said it was expelling 17 Russians who it described as intelligence officers masquerading as diplomats. Belgium said it was ejecting 21 Russians. The Czech Republic gave one Russian diplomat 72 hours to leave the country. Ireland told four senior Russian officials to leave the country because of activities deemed not "in accor-

dance with international standards of diplomatic behaviour."

North Macedonia announced late Monday it is expelling five Russian diplomats for "activities contrary to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations."

"Together with our allies, we are reducing the Russian intelligence presence in the EU," the Czech Foreign Ministry said.

Poland last week expelled 45 Russians whom the government identified as intelligence officers using their diplomatic status as cover to operate in the country. The Netherlands said it took its decision in consultation with "a number of like-minded countries," citing similar expulsions by the United States, Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Montenegro.

"The cabinet has decided to do this because of the threat to national security posed by this group," the Dutch ministry said in a statement. "The intelligence threat against the Netherlands remains high. The current attitude of Russia in a broader sense makes the presence of these intelligence officers undesirable. The deportation is a measure taken in the context of national security."

Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra said he was prepared for a retaliation from Moscow.

"Experience shows that Russia does not leave these kinds of measures unanswered," he said. "We cannot speculate about that, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is prepared for various scenarios that may arise in the near future." That was demonstrated



Deputy Prime Minister of the Netherlands Wopke Hoekstra delivers a speech next to France's European and Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian during a press conference, in Paris, Friday Jan 28, 2022.

Associated Press

earlier Tuesday, when Russia said it expelled a total of 10 diplomats from the three Baltic EU states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in retaliation for those countries expelling Russian diplomats earlier this month.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said it was cancelling the accreditation of four Lithuanian diplomats, three Latvians and three Estonians and they would be required to leave the country. □



# Afghan women traveling alone boarding flights despite ban

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — Afghan women unaccompanied by a male guardian have been allowed to board aircraft in the capital of Kabul since Saturday, airport officials said Tuesday, despite a Taliban order banning them from flying.

There has been no official reversal of the order by the hard-liners in the Taliban leadership, who have been crafting increasingly repressive edicts.

A senior airport official told The Associated Press on Tuesday that it is business as usual for women traveling alone, a sign that at least some of the orders coming from a conflicted Taliban leadership are being ignored.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media and he feared retaliation from the Taliban leadership. A second senior Taliban official also confirmed that the order was being ignored. That official also spoke on condition of anonymity for the same reasons.

In a separate show of dissent from within the Taliban ranks, police official Gen. Mobin Khan criticized a new order from the Ministry



Taliban flags flutter at the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021.

Associated Press

of Vice and Virtue ordering all government workers to have beards and wear the traditional turban. Beards are seen as a sign of piety. Khan tweeted that it is a "strange system" that effectively shuts down a police or government department for three months until its officers can grow beards.

The edict demanding the wearing of beards and turbans was just the latest in a flurry of repressive edicts

that followed a three-day meeting more than a week ago of Taliban leaders in their southern heartland of Kandahar.

The edicts have taken many Afghans and a wary international community by surprise as hard-liners appear to be pushing for dominance.

Since sweeping into power in August, the Taliban have struggled to transition from war to governing as their

nation suffers a devastating humanitarian crisis and an economy that is in free fall. Taliban officials and Afghans familiar with the Taliban leadership say there are deep divisions about the way to govern Afghanistan.

Hard-liners, led by movement leader Haibatullah Akhunzada, would seem to want to return to the harsh rule of the late 1990s. But the more pragmatic

among them — including many from the younger generation of Taliban — see the need to engage with the world. That group sees women and girls in schools and in the workplace as still being in line with their interpretation of Islam.

Akhunzada reportedly was the one to veto a return to school last week of girls beyond the sixth grade, shocking the world and many Afghans. It was not immediately clear how these repressive moves will impact a virtual donor summit being co-hosted by Britain this week where the U.N. is seeking \$4.4 billion to provide humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

Among the regressive edicts that emerged following the Kandahar meeting was a ban on women traveling alone on both domestic and international flights and restricting women to public parks on separate days from men. While stopping short of ordering them to wear the all-encompassing burqa, orders over loudspeakers warned women on the streets against showing their hair and telling them to wear large, heavy shawls. □

# Gunman kills 4 in mass shooting spree in central Israel



Israeli police work near the covered body of a shooting victim in Bnei Brak, Israel, Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

Associated Press

By **ILAN BEN ZION**

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — A gunman on a motorcycle opened fire in a crowded city in central Israel late Tuesday, killing at least four people in the second mass shooting rampage

this week. The shooter was killed by police.

While circumstances were not immediately clear, the shooting appeared to be the latest in a string of attacks by Arab assailants ahead of the volatile Mus-

lim holy month of Ramadan. Israeli media said the attacker was a Palestinian from the West Bank. The previous two attacks, carried out by Arab citizens of Israel inspired by the Islamic State extremists group, have raised concerns of further violence.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called an emergency meeting of top security officials later Tuesday.

Tuesday's shootings occurred at two locations in Bnei Brak, an ultra-Orthodox city just east of Tel Aviv. Police said in a statement that a preliminary investigation found that the gunman was armed with an assault rifle and opened fire on passersby before he was shot by officers at the scene.

A police official speaking to reporters at the scene corrected initial reports of five killed, clarifying that the gunman and four victims were pronounced dead in the incident.

Israeli media reported that the suspected gunman was a 27-year-old Palestinian man from the northern West Bank town of Yabad. Police did not immediately provide information about the suspect.

Amateur video footage aired on Israeli television appeared to show a gunman in a black shirt armed with an assault rifle shooting into a moving vehicle.

On Sunday, a pair of gunmen killed two young police officers during a shooting spree in the central city of Hadera, and last week, a lone assailant killed four

people in a car ramming and stabbing attack in the southern city of Beersheba. Earlier Tuesday, Israeli security services raided the homes of at least 12 Arab citizens and arrested two suspected of having ties to the Islamic State group in a crackdown sparked by recent deadly attacks.

Hours before the raid, Bennett said the recent assaults inside Israel marked a "new situation" that required stepped-up security measures.

Law enforcement officials said 31 homes and sites were searched overnight in northern Israel, an area that was home to the gunmen who carried out the Hadera attack.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the two previous attacks. □



# Peru's president survives 2nd impeachment effort in 8 months

By FRANKLIN BRICEÑO and REGINA GARCIA CANO  
Associated Press

**LIMA, Peru (AP)** — Pedro Castillo, Peru's embattled president, avoided joining the South American nation's list of impeached leaders as opposition lawmakers Monday night failed to get enough votes to remove him from office eight months into his term. Castillo, a political neophyte who shook the country when he defeated the political elite to become president, survived his second impeachment attempt. He characterized the accusations against him as speculation and argued that none could be substantiated.

The votes of at least 87 of the 130 lawmakers were needed to remove the president. Fifty-five voted in favor, 54 against and 19 abstained.

"I salute that common sense, responsibility and democracy prevailed," Castillo tweeted after the vote. "I recognize the lawmakers who voted against the vacancy, and I respect the decision of those who did. I call everyone to turn this page and work together for the great challenges of the country."

The lawmakers seeking to remove Castillo had noted he is the subject of three preliminary investigations into possible corruption, which under Peruvian law cannot proceed until he is out of office. There is also a separate accusation from a would-be collaborator who alleged he is part of a criminal group that receives money in exchange for public works.

The lawmakers accused Castillo of "permanent moral incapacity," a term incorporated into Peruvian constitutional laws that experts say lacks an objective definition and that Congress has used six times since 2017 to try to remove presidents.

"We only found comments without any corroboration, speculation, imaginary links," Castillo said of the accusations while reading a speech before lawmakers



Peru's President Pedro Castillo, center, surrounded by his party's congressmen leaves Congress where lawmakers voted to go forward with proceedings on whether or not to impeach Castillo in Lima, Peru, Monday, March 28, 2022.

hours before the vote. While Castillo remains in office, the latest move against him will add to Peru's political turmoil and weaken the president, who won office with just 44,000 more votes than his opponent in a runoff election. He was an underdog when he entered the race last year and initially campaigned on promises to nationalize Peru's crucial mining industry and rewrite the constitution.

From the start, Castillo, a rural schoolteacher in a poor Andean district, has been handicapped by his Cabinet choices, a number of whom have been accused of wrongdoing. So has his former private secretary, whose corruption investigation led the prosecutor's office to find \$20,000 in a bathroom of the presidential palace.

"Recent developments have confirmed Peru's dysfunctionality, regardless of who is in power," said Claudia Navas, an analyst with the global firm Control Risks. "These events will certainly exacerbate Peruvian's frustration towards the political system, which represents a risk because they will be willing to support an authoritarian leader as a desperate measure to overcome protracted

political instability." The debate in Congress lasted several hours. Peru's unicameral Congress is deeply fragmented among 10 political parties and rarely can come to any consensus on passing legislation. Castillo's party is the biggest faction, but it has only 37 seats, and opposition members lead key committees.

The government invited three officials from the Organization of American States to witness the debate. Lawmakers allowed them to watch it from a nearby building.

Castillo succeeded Francisco Sagasti, who was appointed president by Congress in November 2020 as the country cycled through three heads of state in one week amid confrontations that left two people dead and more than 200 injured. "Vacating presidents has become a sport," said centrist lawmaker Wilmar Elera, who recalled that President Martín Vizcarra was dismissed by Congress in 2020 for permanent moral incapacity but has not faced any charges since.

Congress and Castillo are both unpopular in Peru, although the disapproval of legislators is greater. A survey by the Institute of Peruvian Studies published in

who was ordered freed earlier this month in a controversial decision by Peru's highest court. He was serving a 25-year sentence for his role in more than 20 murders during his administration between 1990 and 2000.

Peru has also been seeing demonstrations across the country in recent days to protest prices for food, fuel and fertilizer.

Navas said Castillo is now likely to try to show any results his administration has achieved in an effort to win support for his administration, but that likely will not affect public opinion.

She said the country is in need of a "comprehensive political reform" that promotes public participation and "strengthens the rules for political parties' internal consultations to elect their candidates."

"Measures to ensure the suitability of those holding political power are also required," Navas said. "A reform is also needed to introduce clear criteria for Congress to impeach a president on the grounds of 'moral incapacity.'"

Associated Press

March by the newspaper "La República" said Congress' disapproval rate was 79%, while 68% had negative views of Castillo.

The debate over Castillo's future came just as the country awaited the release from prison of former President Alberto Fujimori,

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## Post Aruba emits its first stamp series for 2022 'Orchids'



**On March 28, 2022, Post Aruba N.V. emits a stamp series named 'Orchids'. This stamp emission was designed by Mrs. Natasha de la Fuente, and it consists of 4 stamps and is accompanied by a First Day Cover envelope.**

### Artist Biography

Natascha de la Fuente was born in Surinam, but grew up in Curacao and since 1978 she has been living in Aruba. Natascha, has always loved to draw, paint and be creative. She observes forms and colors of different objects. In 2010 she took some basic drawing lessons, but she is pretty much self-taught.

She loves painting flora and fauna, but she also loves to paint landscapes, still life and portraits. She paints mostly with Acrylic on canvas, but she also paints with watercolors and recently she started painting with oils. She truly enjoys painting and when she sees it evolving, take shape and watches it come alive, it still amazes her.

In 2018 she got her National Artisan Seal of Certification from the Department of Culture in Aruba and immediately started selling her art at Cosecha Aruba.

She has participated in various art events like Aruba Art Fair and Aruba Sea Jazz Festival. In 2020 she got selected by Unoca Aruba with a presentation of an online exhibit of 17 paintings that she made.

Currently she sells her art at weekly events at three hotels. You can follow her for regular updates on her Facebook page Nati's Painting Passion (<https://www.facebook.com/Nati7778>) or her website <https://www.natispaintingpassion.com> all other links (like Instagram and Tik-Tok) are on her linktree <https://linktr.ee/Natispaintingpassion>.

For more information or commissions you can email her at [natispaintingpassion@gmail.com](mailto:natispaintingpassion@gmail.com) or on the "contact me" link on her website!

### Orchids:

**Spathoglottis (Big red fancy)**  
Spathoglottis orchids usually grow in moist places in forest, grassland and swamps, usually in bright sunshine. They are easy to cultivate and sought after for their colorful flowers. They need sun for part of the day, well drained loamy soil and regular water. Not surprisingly, ground orchids are found growing in soil. Species of Spathoglottis are found from eastern and south-eastern Asia to Australia and some Pacific Islands. The flowering stem emerges from a pseudobulb and bears medium-sized, colorful flowers from purple, white, yellow and pink. The name Spathoglottis is derived from the Greek Spathe, spathe and glotta, tongue a probable reference to the broad labellum midlobe. (my own picture reference taken from the private orchid collection from Mrs. Sita Gobardhan)

### Cattleya Habenaria Rhodocheila

This beautiful species comes from Southeast Asia. There are several color forms, the most commonly seen are yellow, red orange and pink. Rhodocheila grows in an area that experiences definite wet and dry seasons.

During the wet season the plant sprouts new shoots and grows rapidly so that it can flower and produce seed before the dry season sets in. When the weather starts to dry out the leaves and stem start to die back and by late fall or early



winter all trace of the plant above ground is gone. In late March you can start watching for signs of new growth. (picture reference Mrs. Judith Ho of her own private orchid collection)

### Vanda Tessellata Blue

Vanda Tessellata is an orchid species found in e.g. the Eastern Himalayas, Nepal at elevations around 1500 meters. Medium to large size with a climbing stem carrying linear, narrow, leaves that bloom on a long inflorescence carrying 5 to 12 fragrant, long-lived flowers occurring in the summer, fall and early winter.

They have aerial roots and long, sturdy and upright stems. The leaves of these orchids vary depending on the habitat. Some species, categorized as strap-leaved Vanda orchids, have strap-like leaves that are leathery and thick. Common names are checkered Vanda, lattice-like patterned flower vanda, which is a medium-to large-sized orchid species that originated in India and recognized for its medicinal value. The fragrant and long-lasting flowers have yellow petals with brown and white markings, yellow tessellated sepals and bluish-purple lip. (my own picture reference taken from the private orchid collection taken from Mrs. Sita Gobardhan)

### Dendrobium Nobile (light pink)

Dendrobium Nobile, commonly known as the Noble dendrobium, is a member of the family Orchidaceae. It has become a popular cultivated decorative house plant, because it produces colorful blooms in winter and spring, at a time when little else is in flower. It is also one of the 50 fundamental herbs used in traditional Chinese medicine. It is one of the most widespread ornamental members of the orchid family and blooms are variegated in color, shading from white through pink and purple. It grows in lowland and mountain forests, often on mossy limestone rocks.

It differs from other members of the orchid family by the cluster of flowers - called - raceme - that appears at its leaf axils. This orchid tolerates much light, but no direct sunlight. (my own picture reference taken from my own private orchid collection)

This stamp series and First Day Cover envelope are available at all the Post Office locations, namely in Oranjestad and San Nicolas, and also our online stamp shop on [www.postaruba.com/stampshop](http://www.postaruba.com/stampshop)

For more information on the "Orchids" stamps serie please visit the Facebook page: Aruba Stamps or Webpage: [postaruba.com/philatelic/](http://postaruba.com/philatelic/)



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## Gelatissimo Cups & Bon Bons Available at Select Locations

From Italy, made locally – now available even more closely! Gelatissimo Aruba produces the best tasting authentic Italian gelato on the island for you to taste freshly at different locations around Palm Beach, such as the Gelatissimo Bus at Piazza and the Palm Pier. But ease is on our mind, and now personal and family size cups are available at a supermarket near you.



The Gelatissimo cups in 120ML and 450ML are available in three delicious flavors: Stracciatella, Hazelnut Crunch and Pistachio at Ling & Sons Food Market, Superfood Plaza and Super Do it Center Shaba. The Gelatissimo cups are beau-

tifully packaged in the staple Gelatissimo purple and gold, they are easy to locate in the freezer aisle!

But don't stop at trying only the Gelato, make sure to grab a box of the delicious bon bons, a deli-

cacy any adult is sure to enjoy. The bon bons are elegantly packaged, (gift ideas anyone?), with 10 bon bons available per box. They come in 5 flavors, mainly: Amaretto, Hazelnut Crunch, Mandarin, Coconut and Coffee. □



**Palm Beach - Radisson Blu Aruba has been awarded LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), making it the first hotel construction in Aruba to be LEED certified.**

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, consists of a group of rating

systems for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings. It is an open and transparent process that works toward sustainability, a green environment, and the preservation of human health.

"We are extremely proud of this achievement," said

## Radisson Blu Aruba Receives Prestigious LEED Certification For New Construction & Major Renovations Category

Luigi Wix, General Manager of the resort. "The LEED certification demonstrates the significant lower impact our resort's design and construction has on the environment as well as validating our commitment to being a sustainable hotel. Environmental consciousness is important to both business and leisure guests when choosing a hotel, and we look forward to welcoming guests and groups who share our high environmental standards."

Radisson Blu Aruba opened in April of last year and

houses 132 hotel suites and 76 condo residences. They implemented various sustainable features and practices both throughout the building process as well as daily operations in order to obtain the LEED certification.

Some examples of how the hotel did this was focusing on energy efficiency because it is by far the most important aspect of a sustainable building. Radisson Blu Aruba has an advanced automated air conditioning system for the rooms and the Club House and uses only LED lighting.

The resort also collects its AC condensed water and processes it onsite to reuse it for irrigation.

This new resort on Palm Beach boasts beautiful adult landscaping that integrates indigenous species. Other sustainably conscious hotel operations include bathroom fixtures that ensure reduced water consumption, using environmentally safe cleaning supplies, as well as using soap and shampoo refillable dispensers rather than the traditional single-use bottles. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



## Aspects of ritual art

**Etnia Nativa is the island's culturally conscious partner in educating, safeguarding and promoting the islands' cultural resources, inspiring visitors to actively participate as eco-guardians of fragile and material heritage.**

People lived on this tiny Caribbean island for thousands of years, adapting to the environment and mastering important steps towards a sustainable civilization. During this social evolution these primitive inhabitants became sedentary and this eliminated much of the responsibility and burden of caring for the elderly during long migratory journeys. This advent gave way to a more dignified existence for the entire community. Spiritual gratitude towards the elements is seen in the care our ancestors gave in preparing to perform various aspects of their ritual art.

Ancestors who performed their sacred ceremonies devoted to respect, like rituals dedicated to their deads.

From our archaeological findings it was possible to determine their social and political organizations and



by studying the remains of their tombs it was possible to establish a differentiation in their status and hierarchy for each individual.

The inhabitants of the large towns practiced four or five different forms of burial rituals.

These various forms represented social differences in the community. The background to the recorded differences remains a mystery to this day, but the differences are undoubtedly evidence of the status of individuals, families, or groups within the community.

The dead were buried in the ground within the town limits, while some with special gifts offerings in their grave. However, others were found without any visible offerings. The gift offerings we found in large vessels or urns: direct burial in large storage containers.

Secondary urn burials were also found which are results of a complicated ritual processes; in fact, the dead are buried twice. The corpse is first buried in the ground, after a one or a few years, the bones are excavated. These bones or skeletal remains later meticulously cleaned for their permanent resting place in a fairly small container. If, after such a procedure, the bones are buried in a large vessel, researchers may misinterpret it as a direct urn burial.

We have a pretty good idea of the whole process of secondary urn burial

from existing descriptions of such "double" burials. They are practiced to this day by the Wayu indigenous people, who live on the Guajira peninsula on the border between Venezuela and Colombia.

There is evidence that the Dabajuroid ceramic people aka Caquetios, also had a fifth type of burial in caves outside their villages.

More comparisons can be made between the Guajiros and the pre-Columbian population of Aruba, such as their environment, diet and religion, which had a lot to do with the way in which the natives, particularly from this area, related to the world of the dead and beyond; how to prepare each and every one of your deceased relatives for their spiritual journey through the underworld and into the land of their dead ancestors and friends.

If you are intrigued regarding Aruba, its origins and its cultural heritage, become part of an exclusive visitor's experience, by appointment only, of the cozy home-atelier called "Etnia Nativa". A private residential collection of native Aruban objects, art, archaeological artifacts, historical furniture and more. While the facilities itself is the result of the transforming recyclable materials into an artistic dwelling.

Meet the acclaimed columnist at home! Book your visit WhatsApp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@gmail.com. □

Episode CXLVII -147



# Millennial Money: Please don't go broke attending weddings

By **LAURA MCMULLEN** of **NerdWallet**

Sure, you want to feel joy and love upon receiving a wedding invitation. But one little postcard or email can also pack loads of pricey pressure.

Perhaps you must secure travel and lodging, buy gifts and attire, or call off work. Or maybe you have the honor — and extra expense — of being in the wedding party.

This may be your reality soon, as wedding season looms and events that were postponed or rescheduled because of COVID-19 reappear on the calendar.

Before stressing about these upcoming weddings, take comfort from Crystal L. Bailey, director of The Etiquette Institute of Washington, in D.C.: "Your loved one would not want you to spend in a way that would make you financially struggle."

For less struggling and more celebrating, here's how to handle the financial load of attending weddings.

## **CHECK YOUR FINANCES — AND FEELINGS**

As you learn about upcoming weddings, "map out your year," Bailey says.

This planning is useful if you're invited to multiple weddings, or bridal showers, bachelor or bachelorette parties and rehearsal dinners. If you're inclined to say yes to everything, this mapping could show how much time (and money) "everything" will cost.

Also check your bank account balance or budget to understand what's available to spend after accounting for needs. Ideally, this financial reality check helps you prioritize expenses, says Landis Bejar, a New York City-based licensed mental health counselor and founder of AisleTalk, which provides therapy to individuals getting married. For example, maybe you realize you can't swing the out-of-state bachelorette party but can attend the wedding.

If you still feel compelled to overspend, "take inventory of where that expectation is coming from," Bejar says.



**A Mexican Mariachi band surrounded by heart-shaped balloons awaits the arrival of a couple's wedding proposal ceremony at the Lake Hollywood Park in Los Angeles, on Valentine's Day, Monday, Feb. 14, 2022.**

Associated Press

"That can usually help you navigate what's important in your decision making."

For example, perhaps this reflection shows that you simply yearn to get out of the house and celebrate after so much quarantining. So you prioritize attending the wedding and feel less pressure to buy a new outfit for it.

## **FIND WAYS TO CUT COSTS**

Prioritizing your values may help you save money. So, if being present at the wedding is most important, you may be able to trim expenses in these categories: — Lodging and travel: If possible, choose a cheaper accommodation than what the couple suggested, or crash with a local connection. Split costs with other guests by sharing a vacation rental or driving together. Pay for fewer nights by skipping the night-before dinner and arriving the day of the wedding.

— Bachelor and bachelorette parties, showers and other related events: It's OK

to politely pass on these events if you give plenty of heads-up.

— Gifts: Matt J. Goren, a Chicago-based certified financial planner, suggests simply giving what you can, which will be easier to determine after checking your finances. "If someone is going to think you're a bad friend because you only gave them what you could afford, then they're not that good of a friend," says Goren, who's the CFP program director at The American College of Financial Services.

## **CONSIDER DECLINING**

The most effective way to cut wedding costs? Decline the invitation. That's fine, particularly if you're more of an acquaintance than a close friend or family member, or if you don't want to go.

If you must pass up the wedding of someone you're close with, Bailey recommends calling or writing a note. Thank them for the invitation and con-

sider sending a gift.

Bejar suggests seeing if you can participate in other ways. For example, if you can't make the destination wedding or shower, maybe you can have champagne delivered to the couple.

Remember: If you can't afford the event, "it doesn't mean you're a bad friend or a bad person," Goren says. If you wanted to go but couldn't come up with a relatively small amount of money — say, for a local event — aim to see the situation as a "wake-up call," he says. After all, how would you handle an urgent expense, like an emergency room visit?

Use this experience as motivation to build financial security, Goren says, so you can afford emergencies and weddings alike. Track your money so you know where it goes, and explore ways to spend less and make more.

## **TALK WITH THE ENGAGED COUPLE**

Say you're close with the

betrothed and can't afford the wedding or a related obligation, like being in the bridal party. "The worst thing you can do is have the money fears override the friendship," Goren says. So discuss your money concern with the bride or groom — soon, ideally months before the event.

"Good friends will understand if you're honest and transparent," Bejar says. Avoid complaining or making the conversation about you. Instead, ask what's most important to your loved one, then brainstorm and possibly compromise. For example, maybe your friend most values your presence at the wedding and is OK with you passing on bridesmaid duty (and the hair, makeup and outfit expenses that may come with it).

Whether you find solutions or not, Bejar suggests acknowledging the importance of this milestone. "Brides and grooms want to feel special," she says. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 43 Lively folk

1 Santa dance  
sound 44 Like agate

5 Used the lanes 45 Spot

11 Track shape 1 Sharpen

12 Stick 2 Kitchen need

13 Uncool fellow 3 Uncom-

14 Play-ground sight 16 Sailing hazard

15 Cut off 18 Black on

16 Punch ingredi-ent? 19 Gridiron markings

17 Pride members 20 Poet Pound

19 So far 21 Final, e.g. 39 Clean

22 Police trap 22 Place for Water Act

24 Blow away 23 Fare 40 Light metal

26 Gaunt 25 Diner buy 41 Metal source

27 Makes mistakes 29 Compare

28 Daisy variety 30 Plop down

30 Egypt's Anwar 33 Goaded

31 "— folly to be wise" 34 Not nude

32 Inkwell item 36 Flight part

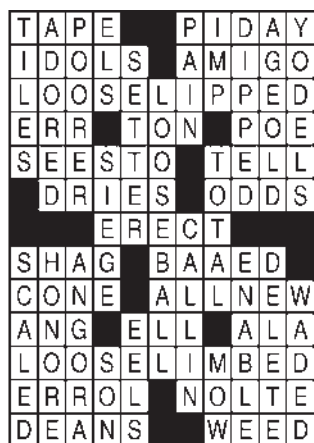
34 Far from wordy 37 Sacred

35 Kinda: Suffix 38 Chore

38 Travel woe 39 Clean

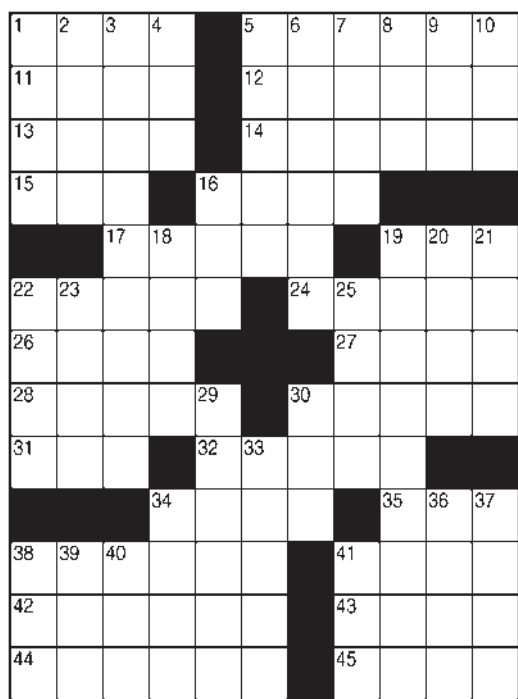
41 Aware of 40 Light metal

42 Heroin, e.g. 41 Metal source



Yesterday's answer

16 Sailing hazard 30 Plop down  
33 Goaded  
18 Black on  
34 Not nude  
19 Gridiron markings 36 Flight part  
20 Poet Pound 37 Sacred  
21 Final, e.g. 38 Chore  
22 Place for Water Act  
a coin org.  
23 Fare 40 Light metal  
25 Diner buy 41 Metal source  
29 Compare



3-30

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

P G H Z H S, T B Y H C P Y S Z P Z C P Z

Z F H A A, G T A O Z T B H C B C P Z

B H P T I L T B O H U I T U H N H U.

— Q S Y M E H Z Y T E Z P H S E

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LAUGHTER IS TIMELESS; IMAGINATION HAS NO AGE; DREAMS ARE FOREVER. — WALT DISNEY

## FDA OKs another Pfizer, Moderna COVID booster for 50 and up

Associated Press

U.S. regulators on Tuesday authorized another COVID-19 booster for people age 50 and older, a step to offer extra protection for the most vulnerable in case the coronavirus rebounds.

The Food and Drug Administration's decision opens a fourth dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines to that age group at least four months after their previous booster.

Until now, the FDA had cleared fourth doses only for people 12 and older who have severely weakened immune systems. The agency said this especially fragile group also can get an additional booster, a fifth shot. The latest expansion, regardless of people's health, allows an extra shot to millions more Americans — once the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention weighs in with its own recommendations. One lingering question is whether everyone who's eligible should rush out and seek the dose right away.

Everyone eligible for a first booster who hasn't gotten one yet needs to, FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks said. But the second booster is only for these higher-risk groups because there's evidence protection can wane and FDA decided the option "will help save lives and prevent severe outcomes."

The move comes at a time of great uncertainty. COVID-19 cases have dropped to low levels after the winter surge of the super-contagious omicron variant. Two vaccine doses plus a booster still provide strong protection against severe disease and death, CDC data show. □



Vials for the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are seen at a temporary clinic in Exeter, N.H. on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021. Associated Press



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WK 52 Oceanside \$55,000  
WK 7 and 14 - all views

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2 Bed Garden view \$6,000  
3 Bed Ocean view \$13,000

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1 Bed ocean front \$17,500  
1 Bed ocean View \$12,000

#### GOLD SEASON

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1 Bed ocean View \$6,500

\*\* Destination Points \$8.00 per point

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www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaOcean

## Classifieds

### HTTA

#### Casa Del Mar

Abbasador wings  
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# Classifieds

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**Divi Village**  
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## Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

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Week 5/1315 (19k);  
Week 8/1113 (18k);  
Week 8/1409 (18k);  
Week 9/1218 (16k);  
Week 10/1207 (16k);  
Week 13/1509 (13k);  
Week 14/1308 (13k);  
Week 15/1217 (10k).  
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# War, love, memory are explored in 'Mothering Sunday'

By **JOCELYN NOVECK**  
AP National Writer

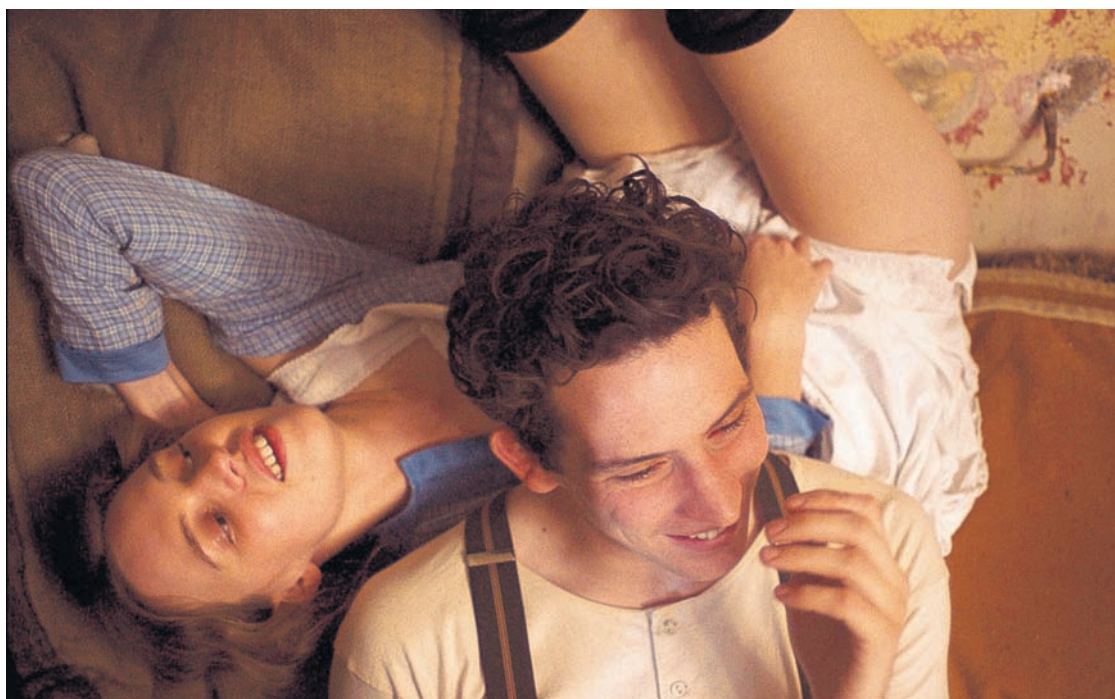
History is factual. History is chronological. History is linear. But memory? Memory is none of those things.

Memory is selective, memory is jumbled, memory travels in different directions. And so does "Mothering Sunday," Eva Husson's affecting and visually pleasing — if languorous — meditation on love and loss, based on a woman's memory of an impactful day that reverberates through her long life.

At first, the leaps between time periods — from the postwar '20s to the '40s to the '80s — can feel jarring. Soon enough, though, Husson makes us understand that this is how memory works, and the rhythm makes sense.

But "Mothering Sunday," based on the 2016 novella by Graham Swift and deftly adapted by Alice Birch, isn't just about memory. It's also about war — namely World War I and the devastation it wrought on countless villages like the English one here, which lost an entire generation of sons.

It's about love, too, and sex, and also about class — the indelible line that divides our two lovers, played



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Odessa Young, left, and Josh O'Connor in a scene from "Mothering Sunday."

Associated Press

with true intimacy by a fresh-faced and thoughtful Odessa Young and Josh O'Connor, very far from his repressed Prince Charles in "The Crown." For the bracing intimacy — and the unabashed nudity — one can thank director Husson, who brings her very French, sexually frank approach to the stuffy British upper class.

But perhaps most affecting, "Mothering Sunday" is about grief, etched indelibly on the faces of parents who've lost chil-

dren. You've never seen a sadder or more desperate Colin Firth, as a father who tries to shoo away his grief with hopelessly fake cheer. These efforts do nothing to help Olivia Colman's Clarrie, his wife, a once-vivacious woman who's inhabited a bitter shell since the death of their two sons in the trenches. Clarrie has few lines but utters them with a restrained agony you won't soon forget.

If that couple weren't enough dream casting,

we have none other than Glenda Jackson, playing protagonist Jane Fairchild's older self, a half-century into the future. But more on that in a moment.

Most of the action takes place in 1924, on a spring day in a pretty village where three families are lifelong friends. Jane (Young), maid of the Niven household, is serving breakfast when she's offered the day off by her employers (Firth and Colman). It's Mothering Day — aka Mother's

Day — but Jane is an orphan. So she heads off on a bicycle to tryst with her secret lover, law student Paul Sheringham, the only one of five boys, between the three families, who survived the war.

Their love, of course, is forbidden. Jane even had to witness the engagement of her longtime lover to the daughter of the third family (while serving them all dinner, no less). The wedding is approaching, and on this Sunday, the families are gathering by the river to celebrate. But first, Paul makes passionate love to Jane, then leaves her to explore the large family house naked, a liberating moment that sees her running her fingers along the books in the library — a hint of her future as a writer.

This is no happy luncheon, however, and not just because of a shocking event that will soon transpire. When Godfrey (Firth) tries to make a cheery toast, Colman's Clarrie erupts, giving harrowing voice to the permanent pain they all feel. These 1924 scenes are toggled with extensive 1940s-era scenes, with a now older Jane (still Young) who is writing and working in a bookstore. □

## Media measuring company Nielsen to be acquired in \$16B deal



Alabama fans react as they watch television coverage of the College Football Playoff national championship game against Georgia, Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Associated Press

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**  
AP Business Writer

Nielsen is being acquired for \$16 billion, including debt, about a week after the media measurement company rejected a \$9 bil-

lion offer.

Viewing data collected by Nielsen plays a big role in determining where billions in advertising dollars are spent each year. The company itself has annual

global revenue of about \$3.5 billion.

A group of private equity investors led by Evergreen Coast Capital Corp., an affiliate of Elliott Investment Management L.P., and Brookfield Business Partners L.P. along with institutional partners will pay \$28 for each outstanding Nielsen share.

Brookfield Business Partners will invest approximately \$2.65 billion via preferred equity, convertible into 45% of Nielsen's common equity. The equity version of the deal is worth just over \$10 billion, with the remainder in debt held by Nielsen.

Brookfield said Tuesday that it anticipates investing approximately \$600 million, with the remaining balance funded from insti-

tutional partners.

Nielsen Holdings Plc, based in New York City, turned down the group's previous offer, saying it had significantly undervalued the business. After it accepted the revised offer, shares of Nielsen jumped 22% at the opening bell.

Nielsen has come under criticism for failing to create new methods of capturing the amount of time people spend watching streaming services, such as Netflix or Hulu. It has become a much more complex task as people now load content on to phones, tablets and other smart devices.

Nielsen is attempting to address those complaints and is expected to launch a new cross-media measurement tool by the end of the

year. Nielsen One, according to the company, can deliver more comparable and comprehensive metrics across platforms ranging from traditional television to a host of other digital and streaming services. The board at Nielsen has voted unanimously in support of the revised offer, and the company will go private if the transaction closes. However, there is a 45-day go-shop period during which Nielsen can look at and accept other offers, but breaking the agreement with the private equity group comes with a \$102 million termination fee.

The deal is expected to close in the second half of this year. It still needs approval from Nielsen shareholders and regulators. □



# Scottie Scheffler's desire to compete takes him to the top

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — Scottie Scheffler only ever wanted to play. That started with watching.

Six years before Scheffler won the Dell Technologies Match Play to become the No. 1 player in the world, he felt lucky just to get tickets to Austin Country Club during his sophomore year at Texas, the toughest of his four years in college. Even then, there was a purpose.

"I would always try to watch somebody," Scheffler said. "I remember watching Rory (McIlroy) hit balls on the range, and I remember hearing the noise that his club head hitting the ball made and being taken aback. Like, 'Wow, this was hit really solid.'"

"I just remember watching and kind of studying those guys and just seeing what I could learn, because there's so many talented guys out here and there's so much I can learn from them that any tidbit I could pick up on was going to be beneficial."

Randy Smith has seen all this before.

Smith, the PGA Hall of Fame pro at Royal Oaks in Dallas, has worked with 10 juniors who went on to play on the PGA Tour. Scheffler was 6 when his family moved from New Jersey and joined Royal Oaks, and Smith can still remember a boy small enough to hide in a trash can.

Mostly, he remembers how he wanted to hang around the pros.

"I'm not talking run-of-the-mill mini-tour pros," Smith



Scottie Scheffler holds the trophy after winning the Dell Technologies Match Play Championship golf tournament, Sunday, March 27, 2022, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

said Sunday evening. "He was always up there around the tour pros when he was 8, 9, 10 years old. And it was hilarious. He would just sit there like a sponge. He'd sit over with a shag bag, and then he'd go off and try it himself. He was jacking around with these guys, challenging them to chip and putt and compete."

A winner at every level, Scheffler experienced his low point during his sophomore year at Texas when a growth spurt in high school — now at 6-foot-4, he would have trouble hiding in a dumpster — caught up with him. His arms were suddenly longer. There were back injuries.

After being named NCAA freshman of the year, his only top 10 was finishing ninth in the Big 12 Championship. He struggled to get

the ball in play. Scheffler described it as a long year. "That was hell," Smith said. "His body didn't feel right. You see kids go through a growth spurt and there's pain involved, there's muscle growth, things that just don't work right."

Through it all, Scheffler never lost the feel in his hands or the creativity between the ears — two of his greatest attributes — or the desire to compete.

"Give him a left-handed set of clubs and he'll figure out a way to beat you," Smith said.

It was always about a chance to compete, without contemplating where it might lead even as he piled up trophies in junior golf, college and now at the highest level. It's not that Scheffler didn't think he was capable of being No. 1 in the world. He just

never looks beyond the next shot, the next round, the next tournament.

"It's not something that I didn't want to achieve or didn't believe that I could do," Scheffler said. "I grew up at Royal Oaks. I grew up wearing long pants to go practice because I wanted to be a professional golfer. I dreamed of being out here."

Not winning until his 60th start as a PGA Tour member didn't bother him as much as one might think. He was competing, and there was great joy in that alone.

And then he won three times over the last six weeks, reached No. 1 in the world and his head was spinning trying to take it all in. Scheffler didn't even realize the top ranking was at stake until Saturday.

That only added to a moment big enough to elicit

rare emotion from Scheffler after he won. He was wiping away tears after so many hugs with wife Meredith, his parents, in-laws, sisters and friends. There was one particularly poignant moment with his father, Scott.

"You're pretty good at golf, man," he told his 25-year-old son. "I'm more proud of who you are than your golf. You're a wonderful young man."

Making it even sweeter was winning in Austin, where Scheffler earned a degree from the McCombs School of Business in four years without summer school (he works hard in the library, too). He considered it a hometown win. And it was redemption from last year, when he was runner-up in the Match Play.

And oh yes, No. 1 in the world.

"I never really got that far in my dreams," Scheffler said at the trophy presentation, choking up again. "I just love to play golf. I love competing. I'm happy to be out here, you know?"

Smith was with him in Austin at the start of the Match Play and then returned home. He is always working, usually with juniors no bigger than Scheffler once was. He still recalls the boy sitting on the Royal Oaks range, soaking up shots and picturing himself doing the same.

"It's not watching the last six weeks, it's the last 18 years," Smith said. "We can talk a lot about golf swings and all this and all that. But he's got the brain to carry it. He could really be something special." □

## Goodell: No timetable on NFL investigation of Deshaun Watson

**PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)** — A resolution to the NFL's investigation into Deshaun Watson's conduct could take some time, Commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday.

The quarterback, now with Cleveland after a trade from Houston, will not be indicted on criminal sex-

ual misconduct charges brought by 22 women. He still faces 22 civil lawsuits.

Goodell said "there is no timetable" for the NFL completing its investigation.

"We're going to let the facts lead us, find every fact we can," Goodell said. "At least there is a resolution from the criminal side of it.

Our investigation hopefully will have access to more information. We will speak to everyone who can give us a perspective." As for a potential suspension for Watson, Goodell noted that a discipline officer jointly appointed by the league and players' union would make that determination. □



Cleveland Browns new quarterback Deshaun Watson speaks during a news conference at the NFL football team's training facility, Friday, March 25, 2022, in Berea, Ohio.

Associated Press



# Kyrgios docked point, then game, and falls at Miami Open

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

**AP Sports Writer**

**MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)**

— Nick Kyrgios lost his cool, then a point, then a game and then the match.

The all-too-familiar trend that has often overshadowed the super-popular, super-talented and super-perplexing Australian's career path continued Tuesday at the Miami Open, where Kyrgios was ousted in the fourth round by No. 9 seed Jannik Sinner of Italy 7-6 (3), 6-3.

How the match was won likely won't be remembered. Kyrgios' meltdown will be, his afternoon replete with racket throws and smashes, plenty of heated words with chair umpire Carlos Bernardes and even a fan somehow trying to get a selfie when tensions were at their peak. When it was over, Kyrgios was gracious with his opponent, shaking his hand at the net and exchanging a few pleasantries. Sinner then shook hands with Bernardes, as is tradition, but Kyrgios passed by him and got in a few more words before packing up his racket bag and walking off the court.

Kyrgios was in such a hurry to leave that he departed without grabbing the red-white-and-black Nike sneakers that were next to his seat. He was playing a



**Nick Kyrgios of Australia, returns the ball to Fabio Fognini of Italy, during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Sunday, March 27, 2022, in Miami Gardens, Fla.**

**Associated Press**

doubles match later Tuesday and tournament officials said he planned on holding a news conference after that match.

Kyrgios spoke earlier in this tournament about how he took inspiration from women's star Naomi Osaka and the way she has shed light on the mental struggles that even elite athletes can face. He acknowledged that he's worked through issues as well.

"I felt like I constantly played so much under that mental stress and negativity that I genuinely just couldn't function anymore with the

pressure," Kyrgios said earlier this week. "I couldn't function with the negativity. Every day was just constant negativity from you guys, from eventually my family, eventually from my friends, from everyone. There was no positivity, and it was just eating me up and I just genuinely hated my life. It's taken a long time ... but I'm just happy now."

The happiness got away from him earlier this month at Indian Wells. After losing in the quarterfinals there to Rafael Nadal and shaking hands, Kyrgios went to his seat and smashed his

racket — which wound up nearly striking a ball boy. That earned him a \$25,000 fine for a combination of his antics and an audible obscenity.

Another fine might be coming, since that his professed happiness wasn't there Tuesday, either.

Sinner didn't know much about what made Kyrgios so upset. "I just tried to stay in my zone, and, yeah, I think that was the right choice," Sinner said.

The fireworks began in earnest during a first-set tiebreaker, when Kyrgios missed a forehand wide

and then slammed his racket to the court. He was already upset with Bernardes, for reasons that weren't immediately clear.

"You have no idea. You have absolutely no idea," Kyrgios told the umpire during the changeover, when he trailed the tiebreak 4-2.

He double-faulted to go down 5-2, seemed to be speaking to someone near the side of the court, then gave a brief yell. He got a point back to go down 5-3, and that's when Bernardes apparently had heard enough and issued Kyrgios a point penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.

"You're talking about me," Bernardes told Kyrgios, who insisted he was merely talking to a friend seated nearby.

Kyrgios then double-faulted to lose the set and that's when emotions truly spilled over.

"What's unsportsmanlike? What is unsportsmanlike?" he asked Bernardes repeatedly, before screaming that he wanted to talk to a tournament official.

"Get me someone now!" Kyrgios said, then smashed his racket on the court four times. That's when Bernardes issued the game penalty, putting Kyrgios down a break before the second set even started, and Sinner kept the lead the rest of the way. □

# Usyk leaves Ukraine, preparing for rematch with Joshua



**Oleksandr Usyk of Ukraine celebrates after his unanimous decision victory over Anthony Joshua of Britain in their WBA (Super), WBO and IBF boxing title bout at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)**

— World heavyweight champion

Oleksandr Usyk is preparing for a rematch with Anthony

Joshua after leaving his native Ukraine, where he was helping his country in the war with Russia.

Usyk "is already in Europe" to start training for a second fight with Joshua that could take place in June, the champion's promoter, Alexander Krassiyuk, said.

Krassiyuk said locations for the fight are being discussed.

"Late June is also the timing we are considering now," he told Sky Sports late Monday.

"Many things will depend on how fast we manage to ink the papers."

Saudi Arabia is reportedly one of the places looking

to host the fight. Joshua regained his WBA, IBF and WBO belts by beating Andy Ruiz Jr. in the kingdom in December 2019, only for the British fighter to lose them last September by unanimous decision after being outboxed by Usyk in London. The rematch was expected to take place in the spring but has been disrupted by the war.

The 35-year-old Usyk returned to Kyiv in February to help defend Ukraine from the invading Russians. He was pictured carrying an automatic rifle, flanked by three other armed men in the Kyiv Territorial Defense force.

Usyk said he had the support of his friends and family in his bid to return to the ring and beat Joshua for a second time.

"In this way, I can help my country more and better than I would by being in the Territorial Defense and running around Kyiv with a machine gun," he said in a video message on Instagram in which he spoke mostly in Russian.

Usyk, who made the step up from cruiserweight where he was the unified world champion, is from Crimea and chose to stay with Ukraine after Russia annexed the peninsula in 2014. □